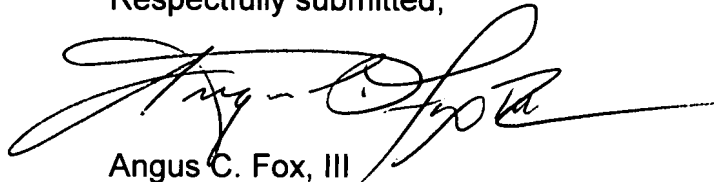


REMARKS

Claims 1, 30, 32 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Sider (U.S. Pat. No 4,031,798). The examiner claims that Sider discloses a method of manufacturing a soundboard for a stringed musical instrument from at least one piece of lumber; and texturing at least one surface of the soundboard. Counsel for the applicant has scrutinized the referenced Sider patent document and has failed to find any mention of texturization of the soundboard wood. What the Sider reference does teach is the manufacture of a semicircular, semi-elliptical, or fan-shaped, wood soundboard made with a plurality of pie-shaped wood wedges which are glued together along their straight edges. Sound radiates from a central point, from which all the wood wedges radiate. The Sider reference specifically states that the soundboard so formed is preferably *flat*. The concept of flatness precludes a texturized surface, which is certainly never mentioned or suggested by Sider. As a result of Sider's failure to mention or suggest the use of a texturized surface on a soundboard, it is believed that the rejection of claims 1, 30, 32 and 33, using the Sider reference as the basis for the rejection, is inappropriate. Consequently, claims 1, 30, 32 and 33 should be considered patentable over the prior art.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding office action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angus C. Fox, III", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Angus C. Fox, III
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 31,828